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ANTHROPOLOGY.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CRANIAL CHARACTERS IN MAN. — Professor John Cleland has communicated to the Royal Society a paper in which he gives an account of some careful investigations into the cranial measurements of various races, and criticises the various methods of craniometry in use — pointing out what facts of growth and relations of parts the observed measurements really indicate. He observes that if the terms dolichocephalic and brachycephalic are to retain any scientific value as applied to skulls, the "cephalic index" (that is, the breadth in terms of the length which is called one hundred) must not be depended on. Other points of importance, as pointed out by Retzius, must be attended to. According to Dr. Cleland, the relation of the height to length of a skull is of great importance. There is no foundation whatever for the supposition, which is a wide spread one, that the lower races of humanity have the forehead less developed than the more civilized nations; neither is it the case that the forehead slopes more backwards on the floor of the anterior part of the brain-case in them than it does in others. — *Quarterly Journal of Science.*

HEREDITARY GENIUS. — In his late work on "Hereditary Genius," Mr. Francis Galton thus describes his purpose:

> "What I profess to prove is this: that if two children are taken, of whom one has a parent exceptionally gifted in a high degree—say as one in four thousand or as one in a million—and the other has not, the former child has enormously a greater chance of turning out to be gifted in a high degree than the other. Also, I argue that, as a new race can be obtained in animals and plants, and can be raised to so great a degree of purity that it will maintain itself, with moderate care, in preventing the more faulty members of the flock from breeding, so a race of gifted men might be obtained, under exactly similar conditions."

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.

NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, HELD AT TROY, N. Y., AUGUST 17TH–24TH. 1870. [*Abstracts of papers continued from the November Number.*]

Mr. F. W. PUTNAM made a communication "On the young of Orthagoriscus mola." He had been led to his investigations by the statement, made by Messrs. Lütken and Steenstrup,* that the young of Orthagoriscus differed greatly from the adult, and that Molacanthus was not a distinct genus, but simply the young state of Orthagoriscus. This statement of the distinguished Copenhagen zoologists led him to believe that they had not seen the young of Orthagoriscus and had been misled by the singular form of Molacanthus in considering that genus as the younger state of

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* Œfversigt Danske Vidensk. Selsk. Forhandl. 1863. p. 36.